

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: GEORGE BURNS

Big Money for Squeale



Federal Customs agents have seized clothing and jewelry owned by Mrs. James C. Ayer, socialite widow (pictured above with Ernest Simpson, former husband of the Duchess of Windsor.) Agents received a tip from an informer that the articles were smuggled.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Gaudin	

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE. JUN 11 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

NOT RECORDED

54-0-148

INDEXED

CHILDREN who "tattle" are ostracized by their playmates; gangsters who "rat" on other gunmen meet certain death at the end of a one-way ride. But "squealers" who inform the United States Customs officials about smuggling activities get a bonus.

For more than 100 years, the Treasury Department has paid such rewards to "squealers." The practice of paying the rewards—nearly \$100,000 in the past two months—started as a bonus system to encourage informers. At present, the amount of the rewards are based upon the grand total of the fines and penalties assessed each convicted smuggler. The "squealers" get twenty-five per cent of the entire sum, providing that the reward be not more than \$50,000.

Latest to garner the bounty of the government in a smuggling case was the pro-Nazi maid, Rose Weber, who supplied Customs agents with the information that led to the conviction of Mrs. Elma N. Lauer, wife of Supreme Court Justice Edgar J. Lauer, who resigned from the bench; Jack Benny and George Burns, radio comedians; and Albert N. Chaperau (or Shapiro) for smuggling. Miss Weber will eventually be handed a government voucher for a sum amounting to approximately \$20,000 for her "services" in swearing out an affidavit and testifying to the effect that Mrs. Lauer had smuggled more than \$25,000 worth of jewelry and personal items into this country since 1933.

Personal prejudice on the part of the informer doesn't make any difference to the government. The fact that the "squealer" divulges information to the Customs agents to "get even" does not prevent payment of the reward, provided the victim is guilty of the charges. Miss Weber was the Lauer's maid. She "squealed" on Mrs. Lauer with malice aforethought.

A German citizen, Miss Weber was serving

dinner at the Lauer's one night when some of the guests, including Chaperau, made remarks that the maid considered derogatory to Hitler. Interrupting the meal, Rose Weber shouted:

"I am a citizen of the Fatherland. I love Hitler and I won't serve any more of this dinner if you go on talking about him!"

When former Justice Lauer immediately discharged the girl, she cried:

"I'll get even with you all for this!"

She did. Another disgruntled employee who put her boss "on the spot" and collected "blood" money from the Treasury Department for smuggling information was Christine Drouadaine. She was employed formerly in the stock rooms of exclusive Marcel Rochas, Inc., Parisian dress importers. At work, Christine saw the trunks of lovely models, who had just returned from abroad, opened and emptied of smuggled, costly gowns.

Fired last year from her job, Christine didn't know that this country pays informers in smuggling cases. Her whole attitude was one of pique against Guy Guerin de Font-Joyeuse, manager of the dress importing firm, who discharged her. When dismissed,

Christine lost no time in telling her story to agents of the U. S. Customs House. By furnishing agents and the United States Attorney's office with names of customers of the shop she enabled them to obtain all the evidence necessary for a conviction.

Duties owed by the dress firm amounted to \$30,000, the fines imposed, \$1,000; so Christine's cut, figured at 25 per cent, amounted to approximately \$7,750 for squealing on her former employers.

THE top reward of \$50,000 for information in a smuggling case has been paid out by the Treasury Department only once in recent years. That was in 1937, when the sum paid to "Mary Doe," the fictitious name behind which the "squealer" hid in a diamond-smuggling case. The identity of the informer was never divulged by the Customs agents who arrested and caught Mrs. Pearl Weinberg with \$286,346 worth of smuggled diamonds as the Bronx housewife descended the gangplank of the liner Normandie.

Acting upon information gained from the informant, Supervising Customs Agent John W. Robberts stumbled against Mrs. Weinberg as she walked down the gangplank. When he bumped into her, he knocked from under her arm

an overnight bag, which fell, broke open and disclosed a false bottom compartment wherein reposed the smuggled diamonds. In less than three days, forty persons connected with the smuggling ring were arrested.

Only last month, another unidentified "squealer" caused the penthouse apartment of Mrs. James C. Ayer, wealthy socialite widow of the noted surgeon and painter, to be searched. A squad of Customs agents trained to spot a gown designed by Molyneux without seeing the label rummaged through the apartment and seized a large quantity of jewels, gowns and lingerie suspected of having been brought from abroad without payment of duty. The raid was made apparently on the tip on the informer, whose identity has been carefully guarded. The search warrant was based on a detailed affidavit signed in a small neat hand. The signature was merely "Mary Doe."

According to the affidavit, Mrs. Ayer's alleged contraband was tentatively assessed as worth between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Thus, if Mrs. Ayer is convicted on a smuggling charge, her nemesis, the informer who "squealed" to the Customs agents, stands to receive at least \$5,000, a not insignificant sum for an act frowned upon by children and punished by gangsters.



Three months' imprisonment and a fine of \$2,500 was the sentence on Mrs. Elma N. Lauer (above with her husband); Judge Lauer, a former Supreme Court Justice, resigned after a disgruntled maid "squealed" to Customs agents.



Paul Chaperau (above with his wife), hooked Mrs. Lauer, Jack Benny and George Burns into participating in smuggling. He did the smuggling; they bought the articles smuggled. Chaperau was sentenced to jail for five years.

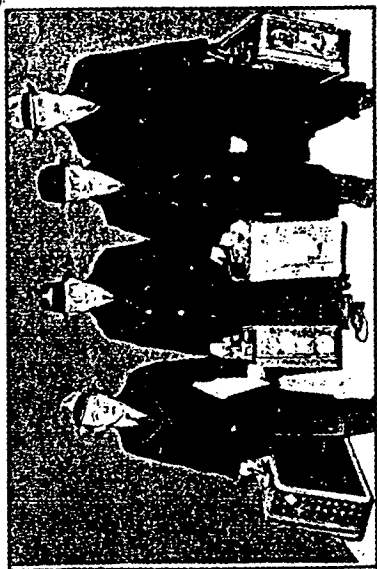


Camera shy, but not shy about "squealing," is Rose Weber, the German-born maid who informed Customs authorities about the smuggling carried on by Chaperau and Mrs. Lauer. Her share of the fines levied may amount to \$20,000.

More About— Big Money for "Squealers" Who "Tell" On Smugglers



Tortured by a Customs agent, Mrs. Pearl Weinberg dropped a suitcase with a false-bottom full of smuggled diamonds.



Federal investigators leaving the New York City Federal building with the luggage of Albert N. Chaperau. It was in these bags that Chaperau smuggled clothes and jewelry into this country for Mrs. Lauer, Jack Benny and George Burns.



Appraiser Abraham Straus examining jewelry and furs taken by Federal agents in the surprise raid on the penthouse apartment of Mrs. James C. Ayer. He set the valuation on the articles at between \$20,000 and \$30,000.



Angered because her employer fired her, Christine Drouadaine (above) informed officials that the Marcel Rochas, Inc., dress importing firm sold smuggled Parisian finery.



Comedian Jack Benny (above with his wife, Mary Livingston) received a suspended sentence of a year and a day and had to pay a \$10,000 fine for his part in smuggling jewelry. George Burns paid a total of \$10,754 in fines for a similar charge.



Lovely Allison Warner (left, above) and Ann Naylor Challe were models at the Marcel Rochas, Inc., Parisian gown shop in New York City. They testified that they didn't know the gowns they were modeling had been smuggled into America by other models from Paris.

155

New York City, N. Y.
December 12, 1938

[REDACTED] b7C
Port of New York,
Custom House,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

There is attached hereto, a copy of an
anonymous letter received in this office, dated Decem-
ber 9th, 1938, relative to one [REDACTED] with aliases, b7C
who is allegedly associated with one [REDACTED] who is
under investigation by your Department.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

Encl.

cc Bureau

RECORDED & INDEXED

N
54-717-X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 13 1938
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE

(copy-cmcw)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

February 20, 1939.

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Recently while an agent of this office was at the United States Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., [REDACTED] requested that he be allowed to see an agent of this Bureau. He was interviewed, when he informed that he had about seventy days longer to serve at the penitentiary and his home is in New York City. He stated he would like to be transferred to New York City immediately because his wife is ill. b7C, b7D

With this in mind he stated he was acquainted with [REDACTED] who was recently involved with JACK BENNY and GEORGE BURNS in connection with smuggling activities; that he was of the opinion he possibly could assist in any further investigation being conducted in connection with this individual, [REDACTED]. He stated that [REDACTED] has been engaged in smuggling activities for a considerable period of time; that he possibly could be of assistance in connection with an investigation involving "LITTLE NATEY" who handles narcotics. b7C

He also advised at the present time there is an indictment against him in New York County in connection with stolen bonds and a detainer is presently filed against him at the United States Penitentiary, Lewisburg, in connection with this matter; that he is of the opinion this indictment will be quashed at the time of his release.

He further informed he could be of assistance to the United States Government in connection with an income tax investigation of [REDACTED] of New York City. b7C

RECORDED & INDEXED

The above information is being furnished to your office in order that you may take the proper steps to transmit this information to the appropriate investigative agencies. In the event your office has any information concerning this individual that may be connected with any Bureau case, it is desired that this be immediately furnished to the Philadelphia Office in order that he can be thoroughly interviewed before he is released.

very truly yours,

PAM:AVM
62-0
cc - Bureau

A. B. LECKIE
Special Agent in Charge.

Hotel Huntington
INCORPORATED
307 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.

BRADFORD T. KENDRICK
Manager

* ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

March 1, 1939.

RECORDED INDEXED

U S Bureau, Federal Investigations,
Washington, D.C.

To the Chief of Bureau:

This I believe is a very important communication. This information, the writer believes, should be in your possession.

54-717-1X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 29 1939

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

It refers to the diamond activities of the firm of

Los Angeles.

4/7/39 - Sub. Bu. of Customs
cc - Los Angeles, J.E.G.

and his assistant make a trip to Europe every year about the month of April, ostensibly to purchase jewelry. Some time last spring, Mrs. Jack Benny, wife of the radio star, was supposed to have brought to the Sunset store, a large valuable diamond estimated at about \$16,000.- It was placed in the safe and only [redacted] and his assistant [redacted] knew of its whereabouts. While [redacted] were in Europe, the diamond was supposed to have been stolen from the safe, yet there were no evidences of an outside attempt to steal it. They reported it to the insurance Company, and some of the details to the local police. This was at the time that the newspapers were publishing the case of the jewelry smuggling of Jack Benny and Burns. It is also known that [redacted] as brought back jewelry from Paris and Nice, Fr., but do not know whether he paid duty on it. [redacted] has not a good name with the Int. Rev Bureau on tax matters. At this time and altho business was making \$50,000.- a year [redacted] assigned his property and home in Santa Barbara, and all contents, as per Los Angeles County records. While in Los Angeles during the week days he stays at a house he formerly owned and also assigned to [redacted] at Whitely Heights, L.A.

Hotel Huntington
INCORPORATED
307 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.
BRADFORD T. KENDRICK
Manager

-2-

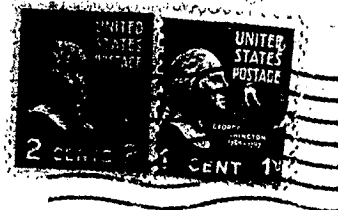
b7C [REDACTED] does not sign checks b7C [REDACTED] does this, has an account at the Citizens Natl Bank, Hollywood Blvd and McCadden Place.

b7C
The entire activity of the firm and [REDACTED] is quite mysterious. Perhaps you care to investigate further.

Xcitizen.



THE MIRAMAR
SANTA MONICA
CALIFORNIA



Chief, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Washington. D.C.

JEL:LL

54-717 -1X

April 7, 1939

Honorable James H. Moyle
Commissioner
Bureau of Customs
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear Commissioner:

I am transmitting herewith a photostatic copy of an anonymous letter dated March 1, 1939, together with a photostatic copy of the envelope in which it was mailed, postmarked at Los Angeles, California, March 26, 1939, which may be of interest to you.

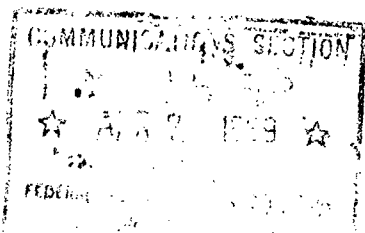
Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

cc-Los Angeles (with inclosure)

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



Handwritten initials and signature:
LH
BBJ
c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 15 1939

WESTERN UNION

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

OK

WH19 10

NESCOPECK PENN MARCH 15 1939 615P

/ J EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU INVESTIGATION
IS JACK BENNY RADIO COMEDIAN STILL UNDER INDICTMENT
FOR SMUGGLING

67C
no record
files section

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Wine
Ed
3/16/39

54-717-2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 17 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EAT:HA

MARCH 16 1939

~~54-717-2~~
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

b7C

Transmit the following message to: [REDACTED]
NESCOPECK PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK BENNY MUST ADVISE
THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT HANDLED BY THIS BUREAU AND SUGGEST THAT
YOU COMMUNICATE WITH UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AT NEWYORKCITY FOR
INFORMATION YOU DESIRE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SENT VIA _____ M

Per K

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 16 1939

POSTAL

MC
FI 10

3-16-39

415PM

GOVT PSXX PD

WESCOPECK PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK BENNY
MUST ADVISE THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT HANDLED BY THIS
BUREAU ANYXX AND SUGGEST THAT YOU COMMUNICATE WITH UNITED
STATED ATTXXXXX ATTORNEY AT NEWYORKCITY FOR
INFORMATION YOU DESIRE

JOHN HOOVER

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FI 3 10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EAT:HA

MARCH 16 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

67C

Transmit the following message to: [REDACTED]
NESCOPECK PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK BENNY MUST ADVISE
THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT HANDLED BY THIS BUREAU AND SUGGEST THAT
YOU COMMUNICATE WITH UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AT NEWYORKCITY FOR
INFORMATION YOU DESIRE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



SENT VIA _____ 150 _____ Per _____

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:COH

March 21, 1939

Time: 11:40 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On
bw
In connection with your call to Inspector Foxworth last night regarding Jack Benny's case with respect to the allegation that Cahill is going to persecute the man rather than prosecute him, Mr. Foxworth telephoned me this morning after talking to Mr. Cahill.

Mr. Cahill said to tell you that the attorney had been in to see him and wanted him to dismiss the indictment; that when he refused to do this, the attorney wanted to enter a plea of nolle prosequere. Mr. Cahill is not familiar with this plea and informed the attorney that such pleas are not acceptable in that district. Cahill also told the attorney that he would not take a plea of nolo contendere.

Mr. Cahill wanted you informed of his appreciation for giving him the information and that he would like to discuss this with you some time and assure you that no personalities are coming into the case. Mr. Foxworth advised Mr. Cahill that you had no interest in the matter other than to furnish him the information and that you knew nothing about the merits of the case.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

54-714-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 22 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
ONE

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3
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1/14/33

Mr. ~~H~~ why all the delay on the
Jack ~~Fessy~~ tried what about the women
when does her case come up. Don't the G. men
pick up aliens. Don't have to look to them. Awareness of
them pick up Perkins if Bridges can't be sent back
why bother with our crooks as the others go off
free just a tip you can stand in front of white
house and pick them up as they go in Europe
crooks that have all the say in the U.S. a what
a laugh jail our own crooks & let alien crooks go
Scott free what is the god old U.S. coming to Miss Bump.

W.S. 7 SIMPLIN 7

Moadus

1

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

54-717-4
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 28 1933
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE
PERFILES

ONE
PERFILES

Eun ✓ ✓

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
April 4, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

~~PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Sir:

In a recent conversation with [REDACTED] National Broadcasting Company of Hollywood, California, he being a director and producer of shows, he advised me that JACK BENNY, radio comedian, who, according to today's press, pled guilty to smuggling charges in New York City, has been very worried as to the outcome of the trial. [REDACTED] arranges the program for BENNY and is intimately acquainted with him. BENNY and his sponsors were very much afraid that he would receive a penitentiary sentence in connection with this case.

b7C

He advised me confidentially that EDDIE CANTOR, who has recently made a number of public remarks relative to his dislike for HITLER and things German in general, has had difficulty with his sponsors, the American Tobacco Company, and the sponsor actually endeavored to cancel his contract after a recent episode in Hollywood. They were not legally able to break this contract and the comedian has eight or nine weeks before it expires.

After the conclusion of a recent broadcast in Hollywood, CANTOR made some remarks about HITLER and an individual in the rear of the studio arose and left and was followed by two persons, who are reported to have attacked him after engaging in a verbal dispute outside the studio. There was some talk of filing charges against the attackers, one of whom was said to have been an individual on the program with CANTOR. Apparently the incident, as well as CANTOR'S remarks, were very disgusting to the broadcasting company officials and he is becoming increasingly unpopular in radio circles.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD,
Special Agent in Charge.

54-717-5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 10 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RBH:MO

SOLOMON
TAMM
ONE

(m)

George Burns

Dear Sir

4/9/39

There might be a law compelling the
~~publication~~ ^{in daily papers} publication of the right name of
 criminals. Jack Berny's name is not Jack
 Berny (which is English American) also Berny
 is the same. Berny's name is Ruben Berny
 in Bernham. It's outrageous to give Berny
 criminals long American names and disfigure his
 the most ghastly profile on earth. That Berny
 looks like an Irishman. With all the Irish judges
 before the I don't doubt but many Irish judges
 are recorded published under some Irish names.

7

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
 KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

RECORDED
 &
 INDEXED

54- 717-6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 11 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE

(copy-cmcw)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

EAT:COH

Time: 2:05 P.M. April 1, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Inspector Foxworth called and furnished the following developments in connection with [redacted] in the Jack Benny case; b7C, b7D

[redacted] has told Mr. Foxworth that he has been shakedown for ten or twelve thousand dollars by Morris Rosen, Oscar Moore, [redacted] b7C
[redacted] these individuals having knowledge of [redacted] past criminal record. [redacted] went to [redacted] who runs a night club in New York City, and told [redacted] he was not going to stand any more shake-downs and was going to report to the authorities. [redacted] told [redacted] that he, [redacted], and "John Edgar Hoover were just like that"; b7C
that you had sat at his table and [redacted] exhibited to [redacted] a photograph from you signed "To my friend". [redacted] states he did nothing further and that he is afraid of every one. b7C

[redacted] says that Gracie Allen was just as guilty in the smuggling case as George Burns; that in fact Gracie Allen jointly signed the checks with Burns; and that Mary Livingston is the real one involved in the Jack Benny case and that she had personally given him the jewelry he was to bring over. George Burns, according to [redacted] b7C, b7D
deducted from his income tax the amount he paid for the jewelry. Also that when the Customs officials raided Burns and Allen's apartment, certain narcotics were found. [redacted] has been informed by an individual, presently in the Federal House of Detention from Alcatraz, that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason Gracie wears long sleeves all the time. The individual claims he has sold narcotics to George and Gracie.

[redacted] also mentioned [redacted], a well-known bondsman in the Southern District, and stated [redacted] is supposed to be a contact man of Assistant U. S. Attorney Delaney. He also stated he had been told that if he made certain payments to [redacted] (mentioned in the Manton case) that [redacted] would take care of his case for him. The payments were not made as he had a falling-out with [redacted] b7C, b7D
[redacted] also furnished Mr. Foxworth information concerning three other pay-off matters that [redacted] is supposed to have originated but which did not go through. Mr. Foxworth is to send the details of these to the Bureau.

b7C
The records in the Director's Office show that a photograph was furnished [redacted]
[redacted] on 4/1/37 autographed,
"With most cordial regards from your friend."

Respectfully,

E.A. TAMM.

copy bd

4/9/39

Dear Sir:

There ought be a law compelling the publication in daily press of the right name of criminals. Jack Benny's name is not Jack Benny (which is English American) also Burn's is the same. Benny's name is Kubelsky. Burn's is Birnbaum. It's outrageous to give to Foreign criminals Eng. American names and disgrace us, looks like an Irishman. With all the Irish Judges cops etc. I don't doubt but many Irish crooks are recorded & published under American names.

Birnbaum

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:COH

Time: 2:05 p.m.

April 1, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. McIntire	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Inspector Foxworth called and furnished the following developments in connection with [REDACTED] in the Jack Benny case: b7C, b7D

[REDACTED] has told Mr. Foxworth that he has been shaken down for ten or twelve thousand dollars by Morris Rosen, Oscar Moore, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] these individuals having knowledge of [REDACTED] past criminal record. [REDACTED] went to [REDACTED] who runs a night club in New York City, and told [REDACTED] he was not going to stand any more shake-downs and was going to report to the authorities. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that he, [REDACTED], and "John Edgar Hoover were just like that"; that you had sat at his table and [REDACTED] exhibited to [REDACTED] photograph from you signed "To my friend". [REDACTED] states he did nothing further and that he is afraid of every one. b7C

[REDACTED] says that Gracie Allen was just as guilty in the smuggling case as George Burns; that in fact Gracie Allen jointly signed the checks with Burns; and that Mary Livingston is the real one involved in the Jack Benny case and that she had personally given him the jewelry he was to bring over. George Burns, according to [REDACTED] deducted from his income tax the amount he paid for the jewelry. Also b7C that when the Customs officials raided Burns and Allen's apartment, certain narcotics were found. [REDACTED] has been informed by an individual, presently in the Federal House of Detention from Alcatraz, that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason Gracie wears long sleeves all the time. The individual claims he has sold narcotics to George and Gracie.

[REDACTED] also mentioned [REDACTED], a well-known bondsman in the Southern District, and stated [REDACTED] is supposed to be a contact man of Assistant U. S. Attorney Delaney. He also stated he had been told that if he made certain payments to [REDACTED] (mentioned in the Manton case) that [REDACTED] would take care of his case for him. The payments were not made as he had a falling-out with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also furnished Mr. Foxworth information concerning three other pay-off matters that [REDACTED] is supposed to have originated but which did not go through. Mr. Foxworth is to send the details of these to the Bureau. b7C

The records in the Director's office show that a photograph was furnished [REDACTED] on 4/1/37 autographed, "With most cordial regards from your friend."

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 7 1939

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-43982-3

EAT:DM

April 5, 1939

54-717-7

RECORDED

Mr. P. E. Foxworth
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square
New York, New York

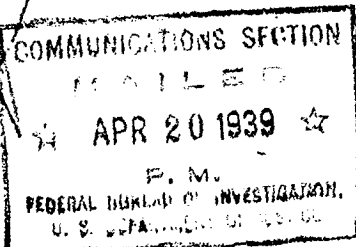
Dear Sir:

With reference to your telephonic conversation with Mr. E. A. Tamm of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to [REDACTED] I desire that you bring all of the information furnished by him to the personal attention of United States Attorney Cahill in order that appropriate prosecutive action may be undertaken against any and all individuals who have violated any Federal Statute. It is noted that [REDACTED] states that he was "shaken down" by several individuals, including [REDACTED] who is probably identical with [REDACTED]

While it is true that I did several years ago furnish to [REDACTED] an autographed photograph, I have of course furnished a comparatively large number of people with such photographs upon their request and I do not desire that this fact be considered in connection with any decision made as to the prosecution of this or any other individual. I desire that you take particular care to impress upon Mr. Cahill the fact that I have no more interest in [REDACTED] than I have in any other subject of a Bureau investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director



U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

APR 4 7 42 PM '39

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(copy-cmcw)

EAT:DM

April 5, 1939

Mr. P. E. Foxworth
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

b

With reference to your telephonic conversation with Mr. E. A. Tamm of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to information received from [REDACTED] I desire that you bring all of the information furnished by him to the personal attention of United States Attorney Cahill in order that appropriate prosecutive action may be undertaken against any and all individuals who have violated any Federal Statute. It is noted that [REDACTED] states that he was "shaken down" by several individuals, including [REDACTED], who is probably identical with [REDACTED]. While it is true that I did several years ago furnish to [REDACTED] an autographed photograph I have of course furnished a comparatively large number of people with such photographs upon their request and I do not desire that this fact be considered in connection with any decision made as to the prosecution of this or any other individual. I desire that you take particular care to impress upon Mr. Cahill the fact that I have no more interest in [REDACTED] than I have in any other subject of a Bureau Investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

b7C, b7D

b7C

b7C

b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:COH

April 4, 1939

Time: 4:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

While in telephonic communication with Inspector Foxworth at New York, I was advised that [REDACTED] had informed Mr. Foxworth that a disbarred attorney in New York named [REDACTED] had a lot of \$10,000.00 Gold Notes; that he had turned one of them in to the Federal Reserve Bank and upon finding out that the same was hot, it was dropped.

Mr. Foxworth stated he is going to turn this information over to Agents [REDACTED] in connection with the hot bond case.

E. A. TAMM

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

54-717-8
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 7 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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ONE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

87-1336-3

b7C, b7D

b7C

(copy-encw)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, N.Y.
April 6, 1939.

PER:SKL

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.~~

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

During an interview which I had with [REDACTED] b7C, b7D
[REDACTED], he informed me that on one of his trips to America a
year or more ago, an effort which was successful, had been made by
MORRIS ROSEN, OSCAR MOORE, [REDACTED] to shake b7C
him down for a certain sum of money. [REDACTED] claims that, these
individuals approached him and told him that they knew of his past
criminal record and further that it was their intention to kidnap
him and throw him in the river unless he paid to them the sum of
\$50,000. They stated they needed this money for LUCKY LUCIANO.

[REDACTED] claims that he did pay them approx- b7C
imately \$12,000 and thereafter he contacted one [REDACTED]
Detective of the New York City Police Department, who made an in-
vestigation. According to [REDACTED] thereafter wanted to
know if he desired prosecution and he informed him that he did not
as the resulting publicity would undoubtedly ruin him. [REDACTED]
then claims to have prepared a statement in which he outlined exact-
ly what had happened so far as the individuals named above were
concerned. After this had been done he approached [REDACTED] b7C
and told him that he had prepared such a statement and copies of it
were in his safety boxes both in America and Europe and that if
anything happened to him the matter would immediately be known to
the public.

b7C At that time [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that no one
would believe any statements that he might leave and that he
[REDACTED] was friendly with many people prominent in public life.
He stated that he was friendly with JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, the Director
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that you ate at his table
and further told [REDACTED] he had a photograph of you which was
autographed "To My Friend," and frequently entertained you at his
club which is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] claims that he paid no

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&
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54-717-8X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 28 1939
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
TOLSON
FAMM
ONE
MISS GARY

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Letter to Director
4/6/39

b7C
attention at the time to [REDACTED] remarks and that he personally felt that [REDACTED] was all right and was successful. He claims to have approached [REDACTED] on a number of occasions asking him why he did not sever his relations with the racketeers and at that time [REDACTED] told him about being born on the lower East Side of New York and having known the racketeers all of his life for which reason he could not "shake them".

The information furnished by [REDACTED] does not in any way indicate a violation of any Federal Statute. The violation, if any, would be of the State Laws. It is noted that [REDACTED] says that a Detective of the New York City Police Department has investigated the matter and that he [REDACTED] requested that there be no prosecution. b7C

In accordance with the Bureau's instructions, I have called the facts in this matter to the attention of Mr. John T. Cahill, U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, telling him that I was doing so at your request.

As the State authorities are already aware of this information and as there is no indication of any Federal violation, no further action whatever is being taken by the New York Office.

very truly yours,

/s/ P. E. Foxworth.

P. E. FOXWORTH.
Inspector.

PEF:SKL

New York, N. Y.
April 8, 1939.

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.~~

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

b7C
b7D
Reference is made to your letter of April 5, 1939, instructing that I personally furnished to United States Attorney John T. Cahill [redacted] concerning a "shakedown" by several individuals including [redacted] b7C

b7C
I have talked with Mr. Cahill concerning this matter and furnished him with the details supplied by [redacted] as outlined in my letter to you of April 6, 1939. I also informed Mr. Cahill that [redacted] had in fact been furnished with an autographed photograph from you several years ago and that, of course, a large number of persons had received such photographs at their request. Mr. Cahill stated that from the facts which I had furnished there was no indication whatever of a violation of any Federal Statute and I particularly pointed out to him that you wanted to be sure that he thoroughly understood that you had no interest whatever in [redacted] other than you would have in the subject of any other Bureau investigation. Mr. Cahill stated, to use his exact words, "I wouldn't pay any attention to that at all. It amounts to absolutely nothing." b7C

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

P. E. FOXWORTH,
Inspector.

44-717-7
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 10 1939
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
V. [unclear]
[unclear]

b7C

Mr J Edgar Hoover.
Washing D.C.

Dear Sir
England first copy of letter sent to Liberty
Magazine N.Y.

From [redacted] b7C
and [redacted]

Dear Sir
I expect that in a few months this scroll
will be relegated to the waste basket.

We (I speak for the majority of my
friends) feel that justice is not done, with
reference to the case of Jack Ruby & Lee
Burr.
RECORDED & INDEXED

54-717-10
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Judge & Governor of Texas people
must think, we gullible. But we stand
for anything, to be sure we have at a great
many similar cases go by in the past.

I suppose primarily, because we thought we
could do nothing about it. Even now we
do not know just how to proceed, but we
intend to try.

They the Culprits would no doubt like
us to forget it. But myself & friends, think it
is about time the General Public began to
take things into their own hands.

We have a general manager in the

2)
Person of J Edgar Hoover who is trying
diligently to curb crime in this country.
But whose hands and efforts are tied.
Unless the people do their part.

I and about 25 or 30 of my friends
can see very little difference between the
acts of Benny & Sam and those of Naty
or Buckle. Except in the latter case his
act reacted against himself and the
motion picture interests. For which he paid
the penalty. While Curran & Benny committed
a crime against the government, and as we
the people are the government, we are going to
do something about it.

We thought about chain letter through out
the country. Kindly advise.

In the mean time our Radio's are turned
against any program upon which they appear.

You are at liberty to publish the letter
But I have very little hope of it.

Very Truly Yours

b7C

P.S. we do not consider them a good example for
our children

[REDACTED] b7c
April 11, 1939

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find copy of letter sent to Liberty Magazine, N.Y.

[REDACTED] b7c
and [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs:

I expect that in a few moments this scrawl will be relegated to the waste basket. We (I speak for the majority of my friends) feel that Justice is not done with reference to the cases of Jack Benny & Geo. Burns.

The Judges and Sponsors of these people must think, we gullible public will stand for anything. To be sure we have let a great many similar cases go by in the past. I suppose primarily because we thought we could do nothing about it, even now we do not know just how to proceed, but we intend to try.

They the culprits would no doubt like us to forget it but myself and friends think it is about time the general public began to take things into their own hands.

We have a general manager in the person of J. Edgar Hoover who is trying diligently to cut crime in this country, but whose hands and efforts are tied, unless the people do their part. I and about 25 or 30 of my friends can see very little difference between the acts of Benny and Burns and those of Fatty Arbuckle except in the latter case his act reacted against himself and the motion picture interests for which he paid the penalty, while Burns and Benny committed a crime against the Government and as we the people are the government, we are going to do something about it.

We thought about chain letters throughout the country, kindly advise. In the meantime our radios are turned against any program upon which they appear. You are at liberty to publish this letter, but I have very little hopes of it.

/s/ [REDACTED] b7c

P.S. We do not consider them a good example for our children.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Doesn't give much

Crime doesn't pay

My Jewish neighbors have
saved some items, and a
clipping. Doubtless this
mail will be handled

^{John}
Burns + Burns continue
jobs - bla bla - over
radio, are granted per-
mission of public ear as
freely as before bragging
by defying government

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

54-717-117
FEDERAL BUREAU OF
APR 2
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
ONE

fact they confessed
not make them
guilty and with
kind eyes of people

1 ENCL. P
W

Detroit Times
Thursday, April 6, 1939

Maid Informer to Get Slice of Benny's Fine

Int'l News Service Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, April 6.—Rosa Weber, a German housemaid with

some degree of fondness for Adolf Hitler, emerged today as the only individual winner in division of the smuggling jackpot into which George Burns and Jack Benny, screen and radio stars, have tumbled almost \$15,000 in duties and penalties.

It was Rosa who upset the applecart and brought the federal men on the run to open the smuggling probe which involved Burns, Benny and others and today she stood to collect as much as \$5,000 in the role of government informer.

The government pays tipsters who pass along information on smugglers, 25 per cent of the duties and penalties collected as a result of the tip and while Rosa hasn't received hers yet and nobody wants to talk about it officially, she is an off-the-record entry for a quarter of the cash handed over by the screen stars and by Mrs. Elma Lauer.

TALK OF HITLER

Rosa never suspected when she joined in the conversation at the home of Mrs. Lauer, wife of a Supreme Court justice, that she was laying the groundwork for a small personal fortune.

The conversation on that eventful evening centered about Adolf

Hitler and the conversers were Mrs. Lauer, her husband, and Albert N. Chaperau.

Rosa was serving the soup and she got so angry at what the diners were saying about the German leader that she put down her tray and waded right into the conversation. That was the end of Rosa's soup-serving career at the Lauers and the beginning of a large headache for most of the film colony and the Broadway crowd—people who never had heard of Rosa.

CONVICTED SMUGGLER

Without a thought of informer's fees but only burned to a crisp because of the incident at her employer's home, Rosa dashed down to the customs office and identified Mrs. Lauer as a smuggler. Unfortunately for Mrs. Lauer, she had been caught smuggling previously and had paid a substantial fine so the customs officers, after taking an affidavit from Rosa, went up to the justice's house to have a look-see.

From Rosa's complaint and that preliminary investigation stemmed the major smuggling probe which, before it ended with the sentencing of Burns and Benny on guilty pleas and the anti-climax sentencing of Mrs. Lauer and Chaperau—identified as Shapiro—involved a considerable number of names found more often in lights than on grand jury records.

Pro-Nazi Maid Gets \$6,714 for Exposing Burns, Benny

NEW YORK, April 6. — (P) — The pro-Hitler huff that led Rosa Weber, a German maid, to turn informer against a smuggling con-

spiracy which involved Jack Benny and George Burns will net her at least \$6,714 in United States Government reward, it was disclosed today.

The maid, employed in the household of State Supreme Court Justice Edgar J. Lauer, quit her job, vowing "revenge," at the height of a dinner party at which the Lauers' guests voiced anti-Nazi remarks.

"Ladies and gentlemen," the maid was quoted as telling the startled dinner guests, "I am a true German. I love Adolf Hitler. If you don't stop speaking against him, I will stop serving the dinner right now."

She went to Government authorities, with the result that customs agents later raided the Lauer apartment and afterwards arrested Albert N. Chaperau, confessed smuggler, who had been one of the dinner guests, thereby opening the trail that led to Benny and Burns.

Mrs. Lauer, Chaperau and the two radio and screen comedians all pleaded guilty. Benny paid a \$10,000 fine and Burns \$8,000. In addition, \$8,816 worth of smuggled jewels and clothing were confiscated.

Under Treasury Department regulations, the maid will be rewarded for her role of informer by 25 per cent of the total fines and 25 per cent of the 100 per cent penalty imposed on the smuggled articles — or 25 per cent of the grand total of \$26,816.

Additional sums may be forthcoming next Tuesday when Chaperau and Mrs. Lauer are scheduled to be sentenced.

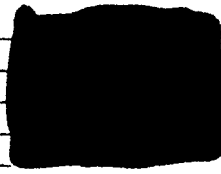
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION - FBI

4115 1939.

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Files Section
Mechanical Division

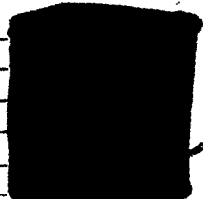
Identification Div.
Technical Laboratory
Crime Records Section
Crime Statistics

SUPERVISORS



b7c

* * *



b7c

Stenographers 5730
Stenographers 5724
Stenographers 5706
Typists 5724

Typists 5236
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Correct
Bring file up to date
Re-date
Record, search,
serialize and route
Indicate index
references

GIL

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SUPERVISOR

b7c



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice
Washington DC

LBN:AEM
54-717-10

RECORDED

April 26, 1939

[REDACTED] b7c
Lakewood, Ohio

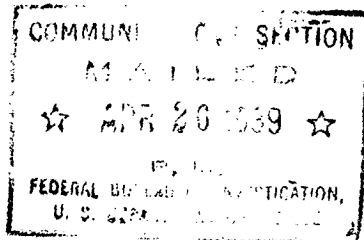
Dear [REDACTED] b7c

In Mr. Hoover's absence from Washington, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 11, 1939, and I know that the Director will appreciate your kind references to his efforts in combating crime. I shall of course call your letter to his attention upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

b7c [REDACTED]

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. Nathan.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Carson.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Gurnea.....
- Mr. Hendon.....
- Mr. Jones.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....
- Miss Gandy.....



New York, N. Y.

PEF:EL

May 4, 1939

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED] informed me yesterday that at the time he was in difficulty with the New York County authorities, he was associating with one [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

b7C, b7D

At that time, he was informed by [REDACTED] that he would be able to "fix" his case with the New York County authorities through an Assistant District Attorney by the name of [REDACTED] for the sum of \$15,000. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was the contact to be used in "fixing" any matters in the office of the District Attorney of New York County. While [REDACTED] didn't recall the exact date of this occurrence, he did remember that it was prior to the time that THOMAS E. LEWEY took office as District Attorney. [REDACTED] was charged with grand larceny.

b7C

b7C

b7C

He states that his case was investigated by a police officer by the name of [REDACTED]. When he was arrested, [REDACTED] claims that he felt great concern over the fact that he might possibly be beaten up, and at that time talked to [REDACTED] in an endeavor to dissuade him from taking any such action, and as a result of his talk with [REDACTED] he claims that he paid to him the sum of \$1,000 in cash in order to ensure that he would receive proper treatment from the police. [REDACTED] claims that after he was arrested and released on bond, [REDACTED] came to him and asked for \$7,500 to get the case off the record, claiming that he controlled the prosecution. [REDACTED] further stated that at the time of his arrest, he had \$62,000 on deposit in one of the New York banks, and that that bank immediately notified the New York City Police of the money which he had on deposit there, and it was for this reason that he had been approached with suggestions that he fix his case. [REDACTED] said that he was innocent of the charges preferred against [REDACTED]

b7C

b7C

b7C

RECORDED

54-717-12

5/10/39
6-10-39

INVESTIGATION
MAY 8 1939
FBI

Director
May 4, 1939

him, and for this reason refused to make any payments to anyone, and the charges were subsequently dismissed.

b7C
He further related that as far as the request of [redacted] for \$7,500 was concerned, there were two persons, whose names he presently could not remember, operating a restaurant at 41st Street and Broadway, New York City, who could substantiate his story.

The above information was secured from [redacted] during an interview on another matter, and is being submitted to you for your information, and no action is being taken thereon. b7C, b7D

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH,
Inspector.